



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF : Jason Meyer, *et al.*  
U.S. SERIAL NO. : 10/047,056  
FILED : January 14, 2002  
FOR : SEQUENTIAL PLACEMENT OF  
GROUPS OF SYMBOLS GAMING  
MACHINE  
ART UNIT: : 3713  
EXAMINER: : Robert J. Mendoza  
DOCKET NO.: : 76867/20092

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Washington, D.C. 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**RECEIVED**  
MAR 29 2004  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel original claims 1-18 and replace with the following new claims 19-36.

19. (New) A gaming machine comprising:  
a display, the display including means adapted for displaying an array area having  
at least two dimensions;  
means adapted for defining at least one sub-portion of the array area as a pay area;  
means adapted for generating, from a pre-selected set of visible symbols, a  
plurality of visible symbol groups, each visible symbol group being formed from a set of at least  
two contiguously disposed visible symbols;